

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1571

S E C R E T LA PAZ 5539

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMANN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PINT AR CI BR UY BL PA

SUBJECT: TRENDS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE

1. I APPRECIATE HAVING A CHANGE TO OFFER THOUGHTS FOR POSSIBLE USE IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS MONTH'S TRENDS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. I HAVE ASKED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM TO PROVIDE ME WITH THEIR THOUGHTS FOR INCLUSION IN A COORDINATED TELEGRAM WHICH I WILL SEND EARLY NEXT WEEK. I WISH TO NOTE IN THIS CABLE THE DEEP FEELING OF GOB LEADERSHIP THAT THIS COUNTRY IS A TARGET OF A COMMUNIST AND SUBVERSIVE THREAT. IN A RECENT TELEGRAM I REPORTED ON A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN WHICH HE, AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT BANZER, ASKED FOR AN INCREASED INTERCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF SUBVERSIVES AND COMMUNISTS AIMED AT COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS MONTH'S TRENDS REPORT TO CONSIDER WHETHER AND HOW WE SHOULD MEET THIS REQUEST? OTHER SOUTHERN CONE NATIONS PROBABLY WILL BE INTERESTED UNLESS THERE NOW EXIST SUCH EXCHANGES WITH THEM. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MENTION THROUGH THIS INTELLIGENCE INTERCHANGE NOT ONLY INFORMATION BUT OUR ANALYSIS, ESPECIALLY IF IT DIFFERS FROM THE BOLIVIANS.

2. I HAVE TENDED IN THE PAST TO DOWNGRADE THE CONCERNS OF THE BOLIVIANS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE EITHER SELF-SERVING OR MISCONCEPTIONS BASED ON INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION.

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HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN RECONSIDERING MY VIEWS IN LIGHT OF THE

ASSASSINATIONS OF GENERAL ZENTENO AND FORMER PRESIDENT TORRES,
AND THE EXISTENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
COORDINATING JUNTA.

3. ANY ADVISE OR GUIDANCE WOULD BE WELCOME.
STEDMAN

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NNN

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